REMARKS

Thorough examination and careful review of the application by the Examiner is noted and appreciated.

The indication by the Examiner that Claims 8, 9 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations from the base claim and any intervening claims is further acknowledged and appreciated.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to further recite the limitations contained in dependent claim 8 and intervening claim 7. The newly amended independent Claim 1 is therefore equivalent to dependent Claim 8 being rewritten into independent form to include all the limitations contained in the base claim 1 and in the intervening claim 7, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable.

A reconsideration for allowance of newly amended independent Claim 1 is therefore respectfully requested of the Examiner.

The dependencies of Claims 9 and 10 have been changed to independent Claim 1. As such, the pending Claims 2, 4-6 and 9-13 are likewise allowable since they all depend on independent Claim 1. A reconsideration for these dependent claims is further requested of the Examiner.

Independent Claim 14 has been amended to further recite the limitations contained in dependent Claim 19. The newly amended independent Claim 14 is therefore equivalent to dependent Claim 19 being rewritten into independent form to include all the limitations contained in the base claim14, which the examiner has indicated would be allowable. A reconsideration for allowance of independent Claim14 is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Claims 15-18 and 20-24 depend on the newly amended independent Claim 14 and therefore are likewise allowable. A reconsideration for allowance of these dependent claims is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Claim rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 11-13 and 24 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Ohuchi et al '562.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to further recite the limitations contained in dependent Claims 7 and 8. The newly amended independent Claim 1 is therefore allowable, as indicated by the Examiner. Dependent Claims 2, 4-6, 11-13 and 24 are likewise allowable because they depend on independent Claim 1. A reconsideration for allowance of Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 11-13 and 24 under 35 USC §102(e) is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §103

Claims 7, 10, 14-18 and 20-23 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatenable over Ohuchi in view of Liu et al 121.

Claim 7 has been cancelled and withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner.

Claim 10 depends on the newly amended independent Claim 1 which is now allowable.

A reconsideration for allowance of Claim 10 is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Independent Claim 14 and its dependent Claims 15-18 and 20-23 are now allowable and a reconsideration for their allowance under 35 USC §103(a) is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that all the pending claims, i.e. Claims 1-6, 9-18 and 20-24 are now in condition for allowance. Such favorable action by the Examiner at an early date is respectfully solicited.

In the event that the present invention as claimed is not in a condition for allowance for any other reasons, the Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicants' representative at his Bloomfield Hills, Michigan office at (248) 540-4040 such that necessary action may be taken to place the application in a condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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